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PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

Meeting of November 15, 1907

The 407th meeting was opened by the newly-elected president, Dr Aleš Hrdlička.

The paper of the evening was by Prof. E. L. HEWETT, Director of American Archæology for the Archæological Institute of America, on *Recent Explorations and Excavations in Colorado, Utah, and New Mexico*, illustrated with lantern slides. Professor Hewett accomplished, with the aid of volunteer students, an extensive reconnoissance of ruins on San Juan river in Utah and Colorado, and interesting views were shown of the aboriginal remains in Mesa Verde park, McElmo cañon, Monument park, and Grand gulch, the latter containing several hundred cliff-dwellings of the "Basket Makers." The work in New Mexico was concentrated on a large ruin in the Puye, where 120 rooms were cleared out and a collection of 3,500 specimens secured. The paper was discussed by Messrs Hrdlička and Robinson.

Meeting of November 17, 1907

The 408th meeting was addressed by Prof. MARSHALL H. SAVILLE, of Columbia University, on *Archeological Researches on the Coast of Ecuador*. Professor Saville, in charge of the George G. Heye Expedition, plans to examine the antiquities of the entire region between Mexico and Peru, taking up, in order, the coast and interior valleys. Thus far, two seasons have been spent in western Ecuador, between 4° south latitude and 1½° north latitude. Two cultures anciently occupied the coast: the Manabi in the dry region of the south, and the Esmeraldas in the humid region at and north of the equator. The ruins of the former are situated on the slopes of forested foothills that are watered with night fogs which descend about midway of their flanks. The houses, which were light wooden structures capable of resisting earthquakes, were placed on terraces excavated from the hillsides and resembling the trincheras of Mexico. The remains are a few slabs sculptured in low relief, and numerous great stone seats of U-shape, each represented as resting on the back of an animal. Mounds occur in which skeletons and pottery are found. The remains of Esmeraldas are exposed on the sea bluffs and along the river banks.

Enormous deposits of art objects are found along the coast for 250 miles, and on Atacamanes river are great deposits in the alluvium; showing on the two sections two lines of human remains, pottery, etc. In these deposits were upright tubes of pottery that served as coffins. Numerous gold objects and some emeralds were found by the expedition. A remnant of the Caiapas Indians living in northern Ecuador, about eighty miles north of the town of Esmeraldas, were visited and photographed.¹

The thanks of the Society were extended to Professor Saville for his interesting address.

Meeting of December 3, 1907

At the 409th meeting the President read the program for the coming academic year of the Paris School of Anthropology, and exhibited a photograph, by A. Frič, of a band of professional Indian-hunters still employed in southern Brazil. Several of the man-hunters show wounds, while in their midst is a small group of captured Indian women and children.

Prof. W. H. HOLMES presented an account of the prehistoric sites in Arizona and New Mexico recently set apart for preservation as public monuments. These consist of great pueblos in Chaco cañon, New Mexico; Inscription Rock near Zuñi, New Mexico, bearing autograph inscriptions of early Spanish explorers; and Montezuma Castle on the Rio Verde, Arizona. Professor Holmes was followed by Prof. EDGAR L. HEWETT, who presented many interesting details regarding the Chaco Cañon pueblos and the cliff-ruins of the Mesa Verde. Illustrations of these ruins were shown, and a prolonged discussion engaged in by Messrs Lamb, Kober, Robinson, and Hewett.

Dr HRDLIČKA demonstrated the right humerus of an adult wild orang, showing perfect healing after a complete oblique fracture at the middle of the shaft, just below the attachment of the deltoid. The bone, which was collected in Sumatra for the U. S. National Museum by Dr W. L. Abbott, is somewhat shortened, but there is little displacement, the animal having been left with a very serviceable limb. In view of the arboreal habits of the orang, the situation of the fracture in the right arm, and the time needed for a strong union of the fragments, the healing effected is remarkable. The case aroused much speculation as to the behavior of the animal under such conditions, and it seems certain that the injured arm was given a prolonged rest. Discussed by Professor Holmes and by Drs Lamb, Baker, and Kober.

¹ For a further account of the investigations of the Heye Expedition, see the Book Reviews in this issue.

Dr I. M. CASANOWICZ exhibited specimens of ancient textile work in the U. S. National Museum. Until quite recently little was known about textile art in antiquity, notwithstanding the numerous references to it by classical writers. But since 1885 large quantities of hand-woven textiles have been discovered in the cemeteries in upper Egypt (the Panopolis of the Greeks) and Antinoi (Antinopolis of Hadrian), which illustrate almost all the phases of this important art amongst the Greeks and Romans and the Egyptian Christians (Copts) from the third to the seventh century of the present era. The material found is mostly of linen or cotton. Wool forms only a small proportion, while silk is exceedingly rare, having been employed mainly in small patches for the adornment of more common fabrics. The linen stuffs are, as a rule, simple shuttle-woven fabrics, sometimes of great fineness, but frequently also woven like Turkish towel-ing (rough only on one side, however). Cotton is sometimes woven in the manner of flannel. The ornamental and decorative features which abound in these textiles, as centerpieces on covers and curtains, or borders on garments, were almost invariably made with colored threads of wool wrought in the same manner and with the same implements as modern tapestry. The pattern of these decorative pieces was pricked out with white linen thread; the designs for the greater part are geometrical, combined with conventionalized vegetal forms and animal figures. More ambitious pieces represent mythical Biblical scenes. Dr Casanowicz stated that it may be safely assumed that these textile designs represent not merely the local traditions and art of Upper Egypt, but the art and customs of the Empire. And in the decay of other branches of pictorial art the designs in tapestry were more broadly disseminated than before, and constituted the patterns for the artisans who were engaged in the production of the conventional low reliefs in stone which, from the fifth to the ninth century, were the most common monumental expression of decorative art.

Meeting of December 17, 1907

At the 410th meeting native cotton raised by the Hopi Indians of Oraibi, Arizona, was exhibited by the Secretary, who said that its seed is similar to that found in ancient graves in northeastern Arizona. The Hopi use this cotton for cord and textiles devoted to ceremonial purposes.

The paper of the evening was by Major JAMES ALBERT CLARK, of the Bureau of Immigration, on *The Effects of Immigration on the Ethnic or Race Composition of our Population*. Major Clark held that the pessimistic view that the country will be injured by immigration is baseless;

on the contrary, it is made by immigration. Teutonic, the term including English, German, and North Europeans, Major Clark maintained, will always be the backbone of the nation, and though 25,318,067 foreigners have come to the United States since 1820, this number has not smothered the basic population. He discussed the various characteristics and prejudices of the racial elements which make up the American nation, and concluded that the alchemy of assimilation is forming the greatest nation the world has ever known. The address was discussed by Messrs McGee, Robinson, Hrdlička, and others, and a vote of thanks was tendered Major Clark for his illuminating treatment of the subject.

Meeting of January 7, 1908

At the 411th meeting, Dr D. S. LAMB exhibited a calvarium showing *ostitis deformans*, a disease found only in the white race, and anthropologically interesting.

Dr H. PITTIER DE FÁBREGA read a paper on *The Native Tribes of Costa Rica*, describing their probable affiliation and their present condition and customs. Costa Rica seems to have been the meeting point of two main migratory currents, the most ancient of which came from South America and imported into the country elements of Chibchan affinity, to which the still existing tribes all belong. These tribes are the Brunka, Tirúb or Térraba, Cabécara, Bribri, and Guatuso. Later migrations, that probably took place during the epoch of highest development of the pre-Columbian empire of Mexico, brought from the North the Nahuas and Chiapanecs, which occupied the Pacific coast and were annihilated or absorbed by the Spanish conquerors.

Mr G. N. COLLINS illustrated with slides his *Notes on the Indians of Chiapas*. The Zoque and Tzotzil Indians of Pantepec were especially referred to, and a brief account given of their modes of subsistence, architecture, arts, and customs.

Dr O. F. COOK, in his *Notes on Guatemalan Indians*, spoke of the great number of natives in that country. The Indians of Alta Vera Paz were particularly examined. Many slides illustrating deforesting, reforesting, cornfields, and cottonfields, were shown. Dr Cook believes that the high interior did not encourage habitation until comparatively recent times. A series of views illustrating the cotton-cloth industry was received with interest. The appearance and customs of the Kekchi and Cahabon Indians inhabiting this portion of Guatemala were discussed.

Meeting of January 21, 1908

The paper of the 412th meeting was by Dr George Byron Gordon, of the University of Pennsylvania, on *An Ethnological Survey of the Kuskokwim River, Alaska*. Illustrations were by lantern. Dr Gordon said that in continuation of his Alaskan explorations, begun in 1905, he visited during the summer of 1907 the region of the upper Kuskokwim river, and embarking on that stream, descended its whole length to the mouth of Bering sea. The upper river for 200 miles was found to be untenanted by man and it appears that there is a corresponding scarcity of animal life. The first habitations reached were abandoned, and in one house five dead bodies were lying as though overtaken by a sudden pestilence; later it was ascertained that virulent pneumonia had swept the valley. Lower down the river an inhabited village was reached; here Dr Gordon observed that the people were of Eskimo type, but spoke the Tinne (Athapascan) language. Their houses are of logs erected in arch shape and covered with earth. Assembly or "club" houses of large size exist here, and there are numerous caches, graves, and salmon-drying racks. The caribou, on which the natives depended, have left their former range and do not now visit the Kuskokwim. Dr Gordon visited the Eskimo villages at the mouth of the river and obtained photographs, measurements, and other data concerning the people. The inroads of disease among the natives, Dr Gordon said, are appalling; in a few years it is probable the inhabitants of this region will be exterminated by maladies introduced by whites. In answer to a question of Mr Robinson, Dr Gordon stated that the timbers of the old houses on the upper Kuskokwim had been cut with ivory and stone tools.

The discussion of Dr Gordon's interesting paper was participated in by Messrs Heye, Robinson, Hrdlička, and others.

The following active members have been elected during the last quarter: Miss Louise A. Rosenbusch, U. S. National Museum; Major James Albert Clark, Bureau of Immigration; and Mr Edgar L. Hewett, Archæological Institute of America.

WALTER HOUGH,
General Secretary.